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Press release

GLS is going to run Poland's first urban microhub for transshipment handling using courier bicycles

An innovative project that aims to revolutionize last-mile transportation in busy metropolises. Poznań is the first Polish city to introduce a transshipment microhub. This initiative is being implemented by Łukasiewicz – Poznań Institute of Technology, the City Hall of Poznań, and supported by GLS Poland, which will handle deliveries from the microhub as part of a pilot program.

The concept of transshipment microhubs involves establishing such a transshipment point in the city center from which packages would be delivered to recipients by courier bicycle. The first microhub in Poland will encompass the city center of Poznań, which has the most buildings and the most traffic.

The aim of this initiative is very simple. We want to propose an ecological and efficient solution that will reduce the number of delivery vans in the center of Poznań while increasing the number of cargo bicycles without affecting package delivery quality, says Marta Cudziło from Łukasiewicz– Poznań Institute of Technology. According to her, the microhub was made possible thanks to the EU's GRETA project, an essential element of which are pilot implementations of innovative solutions to support the transformation of European cities toward the use of effective and ecological last-mile transportation. Along with Poznań, cities such as Reggio Emilia, Maribor, Verona, and Budapest are taking part in the initiative.

How does a transshipment microhub work?

A microhub is a small package transfer point located in the city center, where couriers arrive with delivery vans and unload the shipments. The packages are then loaded onto courier bicycles and delivered to recipients in the city center. A microhub is, by definition, small, similar to a garage or container. In the long run, it is also possible to enhance its capabilities and establish a point of pickup and drop-off (PUDO) from which recipients could send or receive goods directly. *We support any activity that promotes zero-emissions in transportation. Therefore, participation in this project is a natural consequence of our goals to reduce CO2 emissions and reach complete zero-emissions by 2045. Pilot programs, like the one in Poznań, are becoming increasingly*



significant, especially now that the European Union is taking legislative steps to cut CO2 emissions by 55 percent by 2023 compared to 1990 levels, says Andrzej Wasielewski, Director of Domestic Operations and Infrastructure at GLS.

The company already has some experience delivering packages by cargo bicycles in the capital city of Greater Poland. Since last year, three courier bicycles bearing the GLS logo have been seen in Jeżyce district and the Old Town, transporting packages along the city's busiest streets. *The well-developed network of bicycle paths, as well as the mindset of residents who want to live environmentally friendly, free of noise and pollution fumes, encourage the development of bicycle transport in Poznań, underlies Andrzej Wasielewski.*

As part of the pilot program, GLS will support Łukasiewicz - Poznań Institute of Technology with both the concept and the logistics of the entire project. It will be the GLS bicycle couriers who will use cargo bicycles to deliver packages collected from the microhub around the very center of Poznań.

Currently, together with the city and GLS, we will be defining the specifications for the hub and bicycles, identifying a suitable location, implementing the system in practice, and eventually assessing all indicators to determine the efficiency of this delivery method, concludes Marta Cudziło. The pilot program of the first Polish transshipment microhub will end in March 2026.

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About GLS Group

GLS Group is one of Europe's largest providers of independent parcel delivery services, with a strong presence in practically every country on the continent. GLS also operates through subsidiaries in Canada and on the West Coast of the United States. As a result, GLS is able to efficiently deliver millions of parcels and their histories to clients. GLS manages its network in a proactive approach, connecting the markets in which it operates in a flexible and agile manner, adapting to its rapid changes and dynamics. The company is proud to provide high-quality services to customers in over 40 countries. The GLS network includes over 120 distribution centers, over 1,600 branches, 37,000 vehicles responsible for final stage delivery, and 4,500 line vehicles. This ensures greater operational range and flexibility. In 2021/22, GLS Group achieved record revenues of €5 billion, delivering 870 million parcels across all markets it serves. Further details can be found on our website gls-group.com.